

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Yaak Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

2. Type of Proposed Action: (1) Complete and upgrade Skeet Range
(2) Addition to Club House

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The club is located several hundred yards from the town of Yaak, which is unincorporated and is northeast of Troy or Libby, in Lincoln County Montana. The legal description on the Certificate of Survey reads, "National Forest lands described hereon-TractA100-1 and TractA100-2, along with ties to easement tractsA100-E2, E4, E6 and E7. Private lands described hereon-portions of HES431-no full parcels defined."

The physical description reads, "HES 431 is located in protracted sections 2 and 3 of T35N, R32W and protracted sections 34 and 35 of T36N, R32W, PMM."

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Increased recreational opportunities, improved usability and safe secure storage of range equipment and supplies. The nearest skeet range is over 200 miles away (See paragraph 10).

6. Objectives for the Action(s): To add a skeet range and addition to the current club house. Skeet range shooting paths will be handicapped accessible and improve shooter safety. The clubhouse addition is needed for storage of range equipment, freeing up existing space for meetings, classes, etc. (See para. 5 above).

7. Maps:



Figure 1 – Yaak Rod & Gun Club trap range located in the upper center of the photo.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected: Range is approximately 27.68 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the broader area of the range.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project): The site is on an abandoned USAF radar site. There is light residential use to the east and to the west. There is USFS on the north and community land to the south with fire and ambulance barn, a garbage dump being the nearest facilities.

10. Description of Project: (1) Complete and upgrade the Skeet Range. The skeet houses have already been built. The skeet range area now requires grading and filling. This will be followed by pouring concrete shooting lanes. (2) Build a 16'X24' addition to the existing 36'X24' club house.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
--------------------	---------------

No permits required

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
--------------------	-----------------------

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$23,070
--------------------------------	----------

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Local hunter education, Boy Scouts, 4-H and many other community organizations use the range or clubhouse for their activities.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Jim Mayo
2025 Longmeadow Rd.
Troy, MT 59935
295-3406
mayo@libby.org

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: March 15, 2007.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		#9
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, bow-hunter safety, and public shooting.

9. This is a rural area with a low population density. The closest habitation is to the south of the range as shown in Figure 1.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project)
 - (1) Complete and upgrade Skeet Range
 - (2) Addition to Club House
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active shooting range without improvements to the skeet range and addition to the current club house.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences for the acceptance of alternatives A to improve shooting sports opportunities, and to provide improved safety and security.
- The No Action Alternative would be not to improve the skeet range and continue on with present shooting activities without improved safety and handicapped accessibility. Additional secure storage and meeting space will not be added. Land use would remain the same. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Jim Mayo, 2025 Longmeadow Rd., Troy, MT 59935

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the projects reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties leased from Lincoln County, Montana. The proposed low impact activities and the increased recreational opportunities, indicates that this should be considered the final version of this environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The history of the Yaak Rod and Gun Club providing recreational opportunities to its members, and the community, indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for improvements to the Yaak Rod and Gun Club as outlined in para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 28, 2007

PART V. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None Required

Describe public involvement, if any:

None